



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Michael S. Steele
Lt. Governor

Mary Ann Saar
Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mark Vernarelli
(410) 339-5065
Elizabeth Bartholomew
(410) 585-3568

Division of Parole and Probation's Proactive Community Supervision Has Positive Effect on Offender Behavior

Joint Research Project Finds PCS is Reducing New Arrests and Warrants Issued for Offenders

Baltimore, MD (March 14, 2006) ---A research project has found that the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation's innovative *Proactive Community Supervision* is making a substantial difference: rearrest rates are lower and fewer warrants are being filed for technical violations for offenders.

In February 2006, the University of Maryland and Virginia Commonwealth University presented to the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation (DPP), a division of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, ***Proactive Community Supervision in Maryland: Changing Offender Outcomes***, an outcome evaluation that compares traditional probation to new evidence-based practices of offender supervision in Maryland. The findings of the evaluation study indicate that **Maryland is having a positive effect on offender behavior.** *By reducing re-arrest rates and technical violations, this new model of community supervision has the potential to reduce the number of people turning in-and-out of the prison system, reduce recidivism, and promote safer and healthier Maryland communities,* says Jason Ziedenberg, Executive Director of The Justice Policy Institute.

Proactive Community Supervision (PCS) has three goals: protect public safety, hold offenders accountable to victims and the community, and help offenders become responsible and productive. *Achieving these goals can only be done by putting the research in to practice and by having employees who are willing to really work with offenders to change their lives. This report is a demonstration of the incredible work that parole and probation agents do in Maryland,* says Judith Sachwald, Maryland DPP Director.

The implementation of PCS by DPP is not only what the field should strive to do throughout the country, but it is a testament of wise and courageous leadership. Knowing what the research suggests should be done, actually doing it, and subjecting the efforts to evaluation rarely happens in our politically charged world, says Carl Wicklund, Executive Director, American Probation and Parole Association.

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The evaluation was prepared by the joint research team of Faye S. Taxman, Ph.D. at the Virginia Commonwealth University; Christina Yancy, M.A. and Jeanne E. Bilanin, Ph.D. at the University of Maryland. For a copy of ***Proactive Community Supervision: Changing Offender Outcomes*** please log on to the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services website and click the link to publications: <http://www.dpscs.state.md.us/publicinfo/publications/research.shtml#dpp> .

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